



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 299

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6505

House of Representatives, April 2, 2013

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PARAMETERS FOR FEES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-221 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) [Boards] Each local and regional board of education shall
4 prescribe rules for the management, studies, classification and
5 discipline of the public schools and, subject to the control of the State
6 Board of Education, the textbooks to be used; shall make rules for the
7 control, within their respective jurisdictions, of school library media
8 centers and approve the selection of books and other educational
9 media therefor, and shall approve plans for public school buildings
10 and superintend any high or graded school in the manner specified in
11 this title.

12 (b) Not later than July 1, 1985, each local and regional board of

13 education shall develop, adopt and implement written policies
14 concerning homework, attendance, promotion and retention. The
15 Department of Education shall make available model policies and
16 guidelines to assist local and regional boards of education in meeting
17 the responsibilities enumerated in this subsection.

18 (c) [Boards] Each local and regional board of education may
19 prescribe rules to impose sanctions against [pupils] students who
20 damage or fail to return textbooks, library materials or other
21 educational materials. [Said boards] A local or regional board of
22 education may charge [pupils] a student for such damaged or lost
23 textbooks, library materials or other educational materials and may
24 withhold grades, transcripts or report cards until the [pupil] student
25 pays for or returns the textbook, library book or other educational
26 material.

27 (d) Not later than July 1, 1991, each local and regional board of
28 education shall develop, adopt and implement policies and procedures
29 in conformity with section 10-154a for (1) dealing with the use, sale or
30 possession of alcohol or controlled drugs, as defined in subdivision (8)
31 of section 21a-240, by public school students on school property,
32 including a process for coordination with, and referral of such students
33 to, appropriate agencies, and (2) cooperating with law enforcement
34 officials.

35 (e) Not later than July 1, 1990, each local and regional board of
36 education shall adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing with
37 youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts. Each such local
38 and regional board of education may establish a student assistance
39 program to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to
40 intervene with such youths, referral services and training for teachers
41 and other school professionals and students who provide assistance in
42 the program.

43 (f) Not later than September 1, 1998, each local and regional board of
44 education shall develop, adopt and implement written policies and
45 procedures to encourage parent-teacher communication. These policies

46 and procedures may include monthly newsletters, required regular
 47 contact with all parents, flexible parent-teacher conferences, drop-in
 48 hours for parents, home visits and the use of technology such as
 49 homework hot lines to allow parents to check on their children's
 50 assignments and students to get assistance if needed. For the school
 51 year commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, such
 52 policies and procedures shall require the district to conduct two
 53 flexible parent-teacher conferences for each school year.

54 (g) A local or regional board of education may develop a student
 55 activity fee exemption policy for students who demonstrate an
 56 inability to pay a student activity fee charged by the local or regional
 57 board of education for participation in any extracurricular activity.
 58 Such policy shall include, but not be limited to, the criteria and
 59 standards for determining who is eligible for a student activity fee
 60 exemption and a list of the student activity fees and extracurricular
 61 activities to which such exemptions apply. If no such student activity
 62 fee exemption policy exists for a local or regional board of education,
 63 such local or regional board of education shall not charge a student
 64 activity fee to a student for participation in any extracurricular activity
 65 who demonstrates an inability to pay such student activity fee.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2013	10-221
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ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Revenue Loss	less than 5,000	less than 5,000

Explanation

The bill permits any local or regional board of education to develop a student activity fee exemption policy for students demonstrating an inability to pay for extracurricular activities, and prohibits any board without such policy from charging a student who has demonstrated an inability to pay. The bill could result in a potential revenue loss to local and regional school districts. Several schools currently have such policies in place, and the anticipated revenue currently collected from the subset of students, who would be prohibited under the bill, is anticipated to be less than \$5,000 per district.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of students able to demonstrate an inability to pay and the fee for extracurricular activities.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6505*****AN ACT CONCERNING PARAMETERS FOR FEES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill permits any local or regional board of education to develop a student activity fee exemption policy for students who demonstrate an inability to pay the fee for participating in an extracurricular activity. It also prohibits any board without such a policy from charging an activity fee to any student who demonstrates an inability to pay it.

Under the bill, the activity fee exemption policy must include criteria and standards for determining who is eligible for an exemption and a list of the student activity fees and extracurricular activities to which the exemptions apply.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 8 (03/13/2013)